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News and Record (Greensboro, North Carolina) · Fri, Jul 28, 1978 · Page 37
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Martha Long

Timing Just Right

O. Bruce Gupton Jr.

Dot Gupton told me an interesting story the other day. In fact my conversation with her yielded a couple of interesting items.

The most significant one is that her son, O. Bruce Gupton Jr., was recently made a partner with the data processing consultant firm of Price Waterhouse in New York City. That sounds pretty impressive to me, considering the fact that Bruce will be 35 next month. He's a graduate of Grimsley High School and Wake Forest University, got his master's at Carolina and is a dissertation away from a doctorate from New York University.

July 16 Bruce, wife Jackie, who is a native of France, and their children, Karena, 6, and Garrick, 3, came for a week's visit with Dot. They brought along Jackie's nephew, Alexia Serniclay of Paris. Right now Alexia is taking in a month of Y camp before he returns to France in time for school.

I found out Bruce's age through the next part of our conversation. Bruce was born on Aug. 28, 1943, in Hampton, Va., where Bruce's father, the late Bruce Gupton Sr., was general manager of aircraft maintenance at nearby Langley Field. A Hampton neighbor of Dot's sent her a snake plant in a little ceramic shoe. Well, that snake plant has been growing all these years and was blooming for the first time ever when Bruce and his family came visiting. Of course Dot has had to divide the plant more than once along the way. To the best of my knowledge, I've never seen a blooming snake plant so I dropped by Dot's place on Mayflower to take a look. The small white flowers are somewhat bell-shaped and on a rather long stem. When I saw the blooms, there was a "tear drop" at the base of each bloom.

It was on this visit, too, that Karena harvested her first peach crop. About three years ago, Karena's grandfather Gupton planted a dwarf peach tree for her. The tree is about a foot tall now and this year Karena picked enough fruit to fill a moderate-size basket. Needless to say, the peaches were delicious!

While Dot's family was here, they all got in a visit with relatives in Louisburg and then Bruce and his folks headed back North. Next month they will be moving from New Jersey to a new house in Greenwich, Conn.

Bridal Note

A wedding will soon be taking place in Gastonia (Aug. 6, to be exact) that holds interest for a batch of Gate Citizens, not the least of whom are the bride's grandparents. The wedding in point is that coming up for Mary Torrence Gray of Gastonia and Mark Alan Clouse of Helena, Mont. Mary is the daughter of Doris Shaffer Gray and George A. Gray, both of Gastonia. That means she is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Shaffer of North Elm Street and the niece of Ann and Moody Stroud. The Shaffer sisters, Ann and Doris, are Greensboro natives and Mary has spent lot of time in our town. She's also done lots of interesting things. Mary attended the University of North Carolina here and graduated from Carolina, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority and got a degree in elementary education. She was presented at the Gastonia Debutante Ball and then decided to see some far-away places. For two years she taught with the New South Wales Department of Education in Australia and until coming home to get wedding plans in order, was employed by the U.S. Department of Defense as a teacher in Mainz, Germany.

Mark is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Clouse of Helena. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School and from the Academy at West Point with a degree in civil engineering. He was also a member of the West Point Parachute Club. Mark and Mary got together because the Army sent Capt. Clouse to Mainz as a helicopter pilot. He completed a tour of duty in Korea and is a graduate of the U.S. Flight School at Fort Rucker, Ala. In December, he expects to receive a master's in business administration from the University of Utah.

Home Again

Dr. Davis Bowen and wife Carol Ann flew into the airport here at 6 a.m. Wednesday morning. At least that was the word I got Tuesday night when I ran into Davis' parents, Louise and Dr. Claud Bowen, in the supermarket.

We were exchanging family talk and I learned that Davis is not only Dr. Davis now, but that as youth coordinator for the Baptist State Convention, he was a conference leader at the Baptist World Youth Congress in Manila. They left June 26. In addition to the Philippines, Davis and Carol Ann made stops in Seoul, Korea, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Hawaii. They flew home from Hawaii and if they landed as expected at 6 a.m. probably took a brief nap here before going on to Raleigh.

The children were in the good hands of relatives while the folks were away. That number, by the way, has increased from two to four. In addition to their own Traci, 9, and Brad, 4, Davis and Carol Ann have had with them for a year now two foster children from Mills Home. Susie is 11 and her brother Jeff, 12. An extra dimension of love has been added to the Bowen household all the way around.

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Dec 29, 2025

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